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IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/786,772	Confirmation No. 2871
Application of: Ross BUNKER et al.	Group Art Unit: 2167
Filing Date: February 25, 2004	Examiner: Michael Pham
Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DESCRIBING APPLICATION EXTENSIONS IN XML	Docket No.: B241 1440.1 Customer No.: 74739

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the final Office Action dated February 4, 2009, please consider the following:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-based extendable application framework embodied on one or more computer-readable storage media, comprising:
 - a user interface;
 - a plurality of services, wherein a service includes a public interface that has an implementation and provides access to functionality in an extension;
 - a plurality of extensions to extend an application, wherein an extension includes a set of classes defined in an object-oriented programming language, and an XML (Extensible Markup Language) description, wherein the XML description is scanned for code fragments to be passed to handlers defined for a particular ID attribute;
 - wherein each one of the plurality of services is associated with an extension in the plurality of extensions;
 - wherein one of the plurality of extensions exposes and consumes services associated with another extension in the plurality of extensions, wherein the services are consumed by the set of classes;
 - wherein one of the plurality of extensions provides functionality accessible in the user interface; and

wherein one of the plurality of services provides access to functionality in one of the plurality of extensions.

2. (Previously Presented) The framework of claim 1 wherein:
one of the plurality of extensions utilizes one of the plurality of services.

3. (Original) The framework of claim 1 wherein:
an extension is an interchangeable application building block.

4. (Currently Amended) The framework of claim 1 wherein:
the extension includes ~~an XML (Extensible Markup Language) description~~
~~and~~ a set of resources.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The framework of claim 1 wherein:
an extension defines handlers for an XML description tag found in the
XML description.

7. (Previously Presented) The framework of claim 1 wherein:
an extension provides functionality to support at least one of: 1) a
document type; 2) a user interface action; 3) a file encoding; 4) property settings;
and 5) debugging information.

8. (Currently Amended) A computer-based method for configuring an application, comprising the steps of:

providing a user interface to allow user interaction with the application;

providing a plurality of extensions to extend the application, wherein an extension includes a set of classes defined in an object-oriented programming language and an XML (Extensible Markup Language) description, wherein the XML description is scanned for code fragments to be passed to handlers defined for a particular ID attribute, wherein the providing permits one of the plurality of extensions to provide functionality accessible in the user interface; and

providing a plurality of services wherein the providing permits one of the plurality of services to provide access to functionality in one of the plurality of extensions;

wherein a service includes a public interface that has an implementation and provides access to functionality in an extension;

wherein each one of the plurality of services is associated with an extension in the plurality of extensions; and

wherein one of the plurality of extensions exposes and consumes services associated with another extension in the plurality of extensions, wherein the services are consumed by the set of classes.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein:

one of the plurality of extensions utilizes one of the plurality of services.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein:

an extension is an interchangeable application building block.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein:

an extension includes ~~an XML (Extensible Markup Language) description~~
and a set of resources.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein:

an extension defines handlers for an XML description tag found in the
XML description.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein:

an extension provides functionality to support at least one of: 1) a
document type; 2) a user interface action; 3) a file encoding; 4) property settings;
and 5) debugging information.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium having
instructions stored thereon that when executed by a processor cause a system
to:

provide a user interface to allow user interaction with an application;

provide a plurality of extensions to extend the application, wherein an extension includes a set of classes defined in an object-oriented programming language and an XML (Extensible Markup Language) description, wherein the XML description is scanned for code fragments to be passed to handlers defined for a particular ID attribute and wherein the providing permits one of the plurality of extensions to provide functionality accessible in the user interface; and

provide a plurality of services wherein the providing permits one of the plurality of services to provide access to functionality in one of the plurality of extensions;

wherein a service includes a public interface that has an implementation and provides access to functionality in an extension;

wherein each one of the plurality of services is associated with an extension in the plurality of extensions; and

wherein one of the plurality of extensions exposes and consumes services associated with another extension in the plurality of extensions, wherein the services are consumed by the set of classes.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 15 wherein:

one of the plurality of extensions utilizes one of the plurality of services.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 15 wherein:

an extension is an interchangeable application building block.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 15 wherein:

an extension includes an ~~XML (Extensible Markup Language)~~ description and a set of resources.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 15 wherein:

an extension defines handlers for an XML description tag found in the XML description.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 15 wherein:

an extension provides functionality to support at least one of: 1)a document type; 2) a user interface action; 3) a file encoding; 4) property settings; and 5) debugging information.

22-28. (Cancelled)

29. (New) The framework of claim 1, wherein the plurality of services includes at least one of:

- a resource service to provide access to a set of resources;
- a frame service to allow extensions to specify a graphical user interface (GUI) docking layout;
- a file service to provide a set of services for file system access and manipulation;
- a server service to provide a set of services for accessing a server;
- a document service to supply an abstract document interface for files that are part of an application project; and
- an action service to provide methods for adding and manipulating menu and toolbar items.

30. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the plurality of services includes at least one of:

- a resource service to provide access to a set of resources;
- a frame service to allow extensions to specify a graphical user interface (GUI) docking layout;
- a file service to provide a set of services for file system access and manipulation;
- a server service to provide a set of services for accessing a server;
- a document service to supply an abstract document interface for files that are part of an application project; and

an action service to provide methods for adding and manipulating menu and toolbar items.

31. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 15, wherein the plurality of services includes at least one of:

a resource service to provide access to a set of resources;

a frame service to allow extensions to specify a graphical user interface (GUI) docking layout;

a file service to provide a set of services for file system access and manipulation;

a server service to provide a set of services for accessing a server;

a document service to supply an abstract document interface for files that are part of an application project; and

an action service to provide methods for adding and manipulating menu and toolbar items.

REMARKS

Introduction

Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, 18, and 20 are hereby amended. Claims 29-31 are hereby added. Claims 5, 12, 19, and 22-28 were previously cancelled. The pending application includes claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-18, 20-21, and 29-31.

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested in view of the following:

The Claims are Allowable over the Prior Art Because the Prior Art Fails to Disclose an XML (Extensible Markup Language) Description that is Scanned for Code fragments to be Passed to Handlers Defined for a Particular ID attribute

Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-18, and 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murray et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,874,143, "Murray") in view of Boherer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,106,569, "Boherer"). Reconsideration of these rejections is respectfully requested because the prior art fails to disclose at least an extension that includes an XML (Extensible Markup Language) description, wherein the XML description is scanned for code fragments to be passed to handlers defined for a particular ID attribute, as recited.

One embodiment, as disclosed by Applicants, is a computer-based extendable application framework that includes a plurality of extensions to extend an application. See, e.g., paragraph [0020] of the Applicants' specification, as well as Fig. 1. An extension includes a set of classes programmed in an object-

oriented language. See, e.g., paragraph [0020] of the Applicants' specification, as well as Fig. 1. An extension may expose and consume services associated with another extension in the plurality of extensions. See, e.g., paragraphs [0020] and [0023] of the Applicants' specification. More specifically, the services are consumed by an extension's classes. See, e.g., paragraph [0023] of the Applicants' specification. The extension may include an XML (Extensible Markup Language) description. See, e.g., Fig. 1 and paragraph [0020] of the Applicants' specification. The XML description is scanned for code fragments to be passed to handlers defined for a particular ID attribute. See, e.g., paragraph [0024] of the Applicants' specification. The computer-based extendable application framework advantageously allows extensions to create an extendable infrastructure in which other extensions can participate. See, e.g., paragraph [0024] of the Applicants' specification.

In contrast to Applicants' embodiments, none of the cited prior art is directed to a computer-based extendable application framework, as recited in claim 1. Specifically, in contrast to the cited prior art, independent claim 1 recites an extension that includes "an XML (Extensible Markup Language) description, wherein the XML description is scanned for code fragments to be passed to handlers defined for a particular ID attribute."

Murray does not disclose these features, as recited in claim 1. Rather, Murray discloses a system in which files describing the extension files are downloaded on the client. These files tell the client where the extension is to be plugged in, as well as to where to find the appropriate extension files and how to

download them. The extension files are then downloaded and incorporated into the program or platform. See, e.g. Murray at Abstract. However, Murray does not disclose at least an extension that includes an XML (Extensible Markup Language) description, wherein the XML description is scanned for code fragments to be passed to handlers defined for a particular ID attribute.”

In addition, Bohrer fails to cure the deficiencies of Murray. Rather, Bohrer relates to a method of developing a software system using Object Oriented technology. Thus, Bohrer does not disclose at least an extension that includes “an XML (Extensible Markup Language) description, wherein the XML description is scanned for code fragments to be passed to handlers defined for a particular ID attribute,” as recited.

For at least these reasons, claim 1 and independent claims 8 and 15, which recite similar limitations, are allowable over the cited prior art. The remaining claims depend from claim 1, claim 8, or claim 15, and are also allowable for at least the above reasons.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request favorable action in connection with this application.

The Examiner is invited and urged to contact the undersigned to discuss any matter concerning this application.

No fee is believed to be due for this submission. Should a fee be required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any such fee to Womble Carlyle's Deposit Account No. 09-5028.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: April 6, 2009

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